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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 00643 131042Z

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SUBJ: ISTANBUL REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY LEADER COMMENTS ON ECEVIT VISIT TO US, GOVERNMENT CRISIS, STUDENT VIOLENCE

1. DURING CALL BY CONGEN OFF FEBRUARY 11./AYTEKIN KOTIL, CHAIRMAN OF ISTANBUL REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) ORGANIZATION COMMENTED ON RPP LEADER ECEVIT'S PPOJECTED US VISIT, RPP EFFORTS TO TOPPLE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT AND STUDENT VIOLENCE:

A. ECEVIT VISIT: KOTIL SAID HE HAD ONLY RECENTLY BEEN INFORMED THAT RPP LEADER HAD BEEN INVITED TO US TO SPEAK AT SEVERAL UNIVERSITIES AND PERHAPS MEET WITH POLITICAL FIGURES. ALTHOUGH KOTIL HAD NOT YET RECEIVED PROGRAM, HE SAID ECEVIT EXPECTED TO BE IN US FOR TWO WEEKS BEGINNING MARCH 1 OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER. PURPOSE OF TRIP, ACCORDING TO KOTIL, IS TO EXPLAIN RPP CONCEPT OF SOCIAL DEMOCRACY AND DISPEL ILLUSION THAT RPP ESPOUSES "COMMUNISM". CITING PORTUGAL AS AN EXAMPLE, KOTIL SAID ECEVIT FEELS VERY STRONGLY THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS ARE ONLY MEANS OF PREVENTING RIGHTIST OR LEFTIST TOTALITARIANISM IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. AT SAME TIME ECEVIT WOULD USE VISIT TO MAKE HIS AUDIENCES AWARE OF TURKEY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PROBLEMS AS
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A MODERN WESTERN DEMOCRACY. KOTIL SAID ECEVIT HOPED TO BE ABLE

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CGDRECT DISTORTED VIEW OF TURKEY AND CYHJUS PRESENTED BY GREEK LOBBY.

B. EFFORTS TO BRING DOWN GOVERNMENT: WHILE RPP OPPOSITION IS COMMITTED TO TRY TO TOPPLE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT OVER BUDGET ISSUE, KOTIL SAYS MOST RPP PARLIAMENTARIANS REALIZE EFFORT LIKELY TO FAIL. HE ADDED THAT RPP FEELS NATIONALIIT FRONT GOVERNMENT MOST VULNERABLE ON QUESTION OF ALLEGED FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES OF PRIMIN DEMIREL'S RELATIVES AND WILL PRESS FOR PARLIAMENTARY INVESTIGATION. PURPOSE FOR BRINGING DOWN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TO FORCE EARLY ELECTIONS.

C. STUDENT VIOLENCE: KOTIL DEPLORED RIGHT-LEFT VIOLENCE, FOR WHICH HE SAID DEMIREL GOVERNMENT MUST BEAR HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY. BY FOCUSSING EXCLUSIVELY ON EXTREME LEFT WHILE LEAVING RIGHT-WING "COMMANDOS" FREE TO ACT, GOVERNMENT IS PERPETUATING CYCLE OF ATTACK AND REVENGE, WHICH ONCE ESTABLISHED, IS DIFFICULT TO STOP

WITHOUT SERIOUS BLOODSHED. KOTIL SAID RPP AND MAJORITY OF MODERATES ON LEFT ARE AS OPPOSED TO EXTREMIST ACTIVITIES ON THE LEFT AS ON THE EXTREME RIGHT. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT NATIONAL FRONT'S ONE-SIDED POLICIES HAVE BEEN PUSHING MANY MODERATE LEFTISTS TO SYMPATHIZE WITH EXTREME LEFTISTS AS UNDERDOG AGAINST THE COM-MANDOS. KOTIL FELT THAT VIOLENCE COULD BE DRASTICALLY CURTAILED AND SYMPATHY ELIMINATED BY PURSUING AND PROSECUTING COMMANDOS WITH SAME VIGOR USED AGAINST LEFT.
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